

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 19, 2002 LB 1310

receive from constituents are those complaining about all the taxes on their phone bills. And I see this cash funding mechanism as an increase in a tax on my constituent's phone bill. So, again, I support the committee; however, since this was divided out I feel that I had an obligation to speak up as to why I'm opposed to FA918. And I intend to vote red on this portion. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was hoping I would have been right after Senator Brashear, because I...I think you were all energized to the point that maybe no matter what I said you would have listened. But it's too late, I think you've calmed down by now. And I do appreciate Senator Brashear's dividing the question. And I understand what Senator Beutler is saying, too, but I am inclined to vote against this portion of the...of the amendment, and this is why. I...I think, basically, this isn't going to do us any good for money for this biennium, and that's what we're trying to do, I think, with LB 1310. This isn't going to help us one bit. Having said that, I think it's a little too quick. I don't know how much time that the Public Service Commission had to put together figures to propose what...what the portion of their business related to telecommunications might be, but I doubt that there was very much time allowed to come up with that information. I think we need time to do some more research, to have some more discussion, to further the study. There are other aspects of Public Service Commission that very well deserve to be looked at if we're going to cash fund and that, not insignificantly, includes...includes some elevator regulation, which will hit all of you rural senators if we head down this path, truckers. There are other aspects, cab drivers that are regulated by the Public Service Commission, house movers or home movers, I guess, personal property movers. That needs to be aired out. And as far as other agencies that are cash funded here in the state, there are some that at least are partially cash funded. And...and we...we've taken that a step at a time. And I think, in the long term, we...we'll look at this. But I don't want to do it in this fashion. I believe we should look at it over a little bit longer period of time, come back with a separate